

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

FIGS. 1A-1B stand objected for not being labeled with --PRIOR ART--.

Appropriate amendment has been made, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,689,460 (Ooishi). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

As to Claim 1, Ooishi FIG. 49 is cited in the Office Action as the basis of the rejection of this claim. The circuit of Ooishi FIG. 49 (or FIG. 133) and the circuit of FIGS. 2-3, however, are substantially different from the presently claimed invention and the operations thereof are also substantially different.

To further clarify the claimed invention, Claim 1 has been amended to recite: --a clamp connected between the core voltage and a ground voltage for adjusting a level of the core voltage generated by the core voltage generator based on an output signal of the comparator-- (see the Specification page 9, lines 2-4 for support). As shown in FIG. 2 of the present application, the clamp 40 is connected between the core voltage Vcore and the ground. The Vcore is supplied to the

Amendments To The Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1A-1B. These sheets contain corrections shown in red for the Examiner's approval and are requested to replace the original sheets of FIGS. 1A-1B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of FIGS. 1A-1B

sense amplifier.

In contradistinction, Ooishi's transistor 2 (in FIGS. 49 and 133) is connected between the external power supply voltage VCE and the internal power supply voltage VCI. This structural difference of Ooishi is **not** similar or obvious when it is compared with the presently claimed invention.

Further to these and other structural differences, Ooishi fails to teach the amended limitation of Claim 1: --a core voltage generator for generating a core voltage to be used **directly** for the driving voltage of the sense amplifier--.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited reference. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

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Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX OF ATTACHMENTS

Application Serial No. 10/655,204
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004

**Replacement Sheet of FIGS. 1A and 1B
(a total of 1 sheet of drawing)**